TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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LET US REMAIN CALM

We have come upon one of those times in history when events of momentous portend are knowingly around the corner. Momentous events rarely occur with such a preliminary fanfare. Most often they are sudden, and it becomes the challenge of the historian to interpret their significance in the afterglow of retrospect.

The next two weeks will see some public schools closed. We pray that the number will be held to a minimum. No one in calm appraisal could want to see communities denied educational opportunities. But the simple facts are before us, and await only the triggering date of school openings in at least two states, to see the doors swing shut, or perhaps not open at all for a few schools.

So much has been said and written, and so very, very much more will yet appear in the newspapers in the eventful next fifteen days, that, for our part, we desire to enter a plea for calmness and determined support of our Virginia leadership. It is no time for violence. It is no time for undue costly acts doomed only to weaken the very cause they would seek to espouse.

If, as expected, some schools in Virginia either do not open or are closed after opening, let the people be calm. It is, in our opinion, better that way. The greatest of all Virginians grew up and achieved their greatness without a public school system. Ways will be found to see that essential education is provided. No person meriting intellectual respect could argue that one could secure an education at the point of a bayonet. It is infinitely better not to open public schools at all, this year, or any other year, than to have soldiers hold bayonets at the back of innocent children, and for communities to live in constant fear of violence.

And we pray that Virginians will be calm, and looking back over the vast and eventful sweep of the glorious past of the Old Dominion, we will in the momentous days at hand keep our feet on the ground, and not go into a panic because a few schools close or do not open.

We will, in our opinion, stand by and uphold the hands of our very outstanding Governor, J. Lindsay Almond. He was a distinguished Judge. He served ably in the Congress of the United States. He was our Attorney General through the vexing times of legation and anxiety over the very issues involved, and has followed it from beginning to end in all its ramifications and unfolding. And he was overwhelmingly chosen as our leader by the people of Virginia, with the electorate knowing full well how he stood on this vital problem. Governor Almond merits the support of one and all Virginians in this hour. It is our intention to stand by him. He will seek every honorable way to keep the public schools open, but he will not forfeit the constitutional rights of the sovereign states.

And, finally, we are pleased to note that here in Appomattox County, we are looking forward to a normal school year. We welcome back the teachers and pupils, and we commend the spirit of cooperation existing in our local school division.

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GEOGRAPHY AND YOU

Scientists and astronomers are talking about shooting rockets to the moon and sending satellites aloft. And the average citizen is beginning to think about the universe, outer space, the planets, our solar system, our galaxy, etc.

Yet many of us know little about the geography of the earth or our country itself. Do you periodically get out a map of your state or county, or the world, and study it? If you don't your geography is probably rusty.

Here are a few simple questions, which you can use to test yourself: Which is fartherest north, Toronto, Canada, St. Paul, Minnesota, Green Bay, Wisconsin, or Watertown, New York? Answer: St. Paul is fartherest north, Green Bay next, Watertown next, and Toronto is fartherest south of the four.

Which is fartherest south: San Diego, California, Cape Canaveral, Florida, or Brownsville, Texas? Answer: Brownsville is fartherest south, Cape Canaveral next, and San Diego is fartherest north of the three.

And about the states, did you know that if you traveled from Savannah, Georgia up the east coast all the way to New York, that you could have traveled the same distance on the west coast and remained in one state—California? That's possible, and it's also true that the southern tip of Nevada reaches as far south as South Carolina, while the northern border of Nevada is north of New York City!

Other questions: Pensacola, Florida, is west or east of Detroit and Chicago? Answer: It's west of both. Traverse City, Michigan, is north or south of Portland, Maine? Answer: It's north of Portland, and also north of Augusta, Maine's capital.

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OUR LIBERTY BELL — 206 YEARS OLD

The famous Liberty Bell, symbol of our freedom, will be 206 years old this month. There were actually four liberty bells cast, two in England and two in Philadelphia. The original purpose of purchasing a liberty bell was to celebrate the 15th anniversary of William Penn's granting a charter to the Quaker City.

Isaac Norris, speaker of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly, ordered the first liberty bell from Lester and Peck of London. His instructions to the bell makers were that the following words, shaped in large letters round it, should be put on the bell: "By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1782."

Below was to be: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof. Lev XXV 10."

The bell was delivered in August of 1752 and the local committee was completely satisfied except for one thing: when it was set up in the ward to try out its tone and carrying quality, "it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence."

Charles Stow and John Pass of Philadelphia were commissioned to recast the bell. They believed that the old bell was too brittle, so they added more copper to the mixture, with a resulting tone that did not please the colonial fathers. Stow and Pass cast a third bell, which turned out to be our famous liberty bell, for which they were paid about $303.

The bell weighed a little over 2,000 pounds, and measured twelve feet in circumference around the lip of the bell. This is the bell that pealed forth with our rallying notes of freedom on July 8, 1776. This is the bell that was hidden in the straw in a wagon and taken from Philadelphia until the British had evacuated.

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Contentment is a matter of reducing your wants and desires.

Bible Material: Proverbs 23:29-35; Daniel 5:1-30; Habakkuk 2:5-16; Romans 12:11—14:23.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 5:11-23.

Is It Fair?

Lesson for August 31, 1958

EVEN the people who talk most about social justice are often silent about one thing which readers of the Bible will find plainly there: the drink problem. It should be remembered that whiskey was invented long after Bible times. All the warnings about strong drink, in the Bible, are about wine and the equivalent of beer, the "light-er" liquors. The passage from Proverbs gives a vivid picture of personal trouble caused by such liquors. Daniel Dr. Foreman gives the story of the first total-abstinence society on record, an outstanding success on a health basis. Habakkuk the prophet lines up "giving his neighbor drink" right along with stealing and murder. Paul puts the whole thing in a new light: the truth of Christian brotherhood.

Ask A Modern-Day Questions It Is Fair?

All of which raises the same question, in various ways. Isn't the use of liquor, as it is done in the United States in this 20th century, a very obvious example of social injustice? Social justice, we may remember, is just carrying into all relationships the spirit and principle of the Golden Rule. It is being fair to all concerned.

But is it fair to give a lame person a shove? Is it fair to put a stumbling block in front of the blind? Alcoholics are called "sick" and alcoholism a disease. But it is a fact that it ranks fourth in all the diseases of our nation. Alcoholism would never get a start without the background of social drinking. No drug used by "addicts" gets nearly as many people into trouble as does alcohol. Is it fair to give the weak as much of a push downhill as American society does?

Policeman's Friday Night Offers Insight Into Problem

A young minister spent his Friday nights, one summer, riding around with policemen in squad cars. With very few exceptions, the calls for help were due to drink. Family quarrels, thefts (to get money for liquor), beatings, rapes, and murders: all starting from a few friendly drinks. This young man came to the conclusion that the money put into that city's treasury by liquor licenses was more than matched by the money taken out of treasury and private funds to pay for the damage the liquor creates. It is true, that city claims to be the "whiskey capital of America," but the reader is invited to look around in his own town and figure the cost to the taxpayers of troubles caused by alcohol. Is it fair?

Movie Make-Believe Paints Problem In Wrong Color

Movies sometimes do the same kind of harm. Some years ago there was a popular series of movies featuring a husband and wife who were married both on the screen and off. In all their pictures they were a gay, happy couple. He drank "like a fish" and she drank with him and it never seemed to affect either of them. (How could it? Stage liquor is like stage money—a weak imitation of the real thing.) Not long after that, the papers reported that this actress had divorced her charming Prince Barleycorn. And for what? Doing in real life what he was paid to pretend doing in pictures: drink when he felt like it. Reel life and real life were vastly different.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Washington Notes

Reply to Sputnik

The dramatic voyage under the polar ice cap by the atomic submarine Nautilus has been hailed in Western capitals as a momentous achievement opening new vistas for both war and peace.

On Capital Hill, several legislators called the feat an answer to Russia's sputniks.

Corn Price Decline Seen

The Agricultral Marketing Service has predicted that average prices received by farmers for corn probably will decline seasonally over the next few months.

But the season's low in prices probably will come earlier this year than last if the weather is nearer normal, it said. Furthermore, the drop may not be as great as last year, it said, when the high moisture content of the fall harvested corn lowered prices of the grain.

Arms Assets

The Aircraft Industries Association said recently the Defense Department has an inventory — and thousands of other items — worth more than $100,000,000,000.

And the department spends about $7,000,000,000 a year—some $20,000,000 a day—merely on maintenance operations.

The industry organization reported that 80,000 military and civilian employees of the department are involved in maintenance work.

Help From Army

The Army has a new program to help amateur missilemen shoot their rockets — without blowing themselves up.

Headquarters recently began circulating to all commands instructions for aiding amateur rocket clubs, missile and other scientific groups which experiment in rocketry.

But in giving help, including use of some of the Army's test ranges, the Army is taking care that it isn't held liable for accidents. The amateurs must sign waivers, agreeing that neither they nor their relatives will try to hold the Army responsible for rocket mishaps, nor bring suit in court.

More On Social Security

Senator Kennedy (D.,Mass.) has urged that old-age benefits be increased eight per cent instead of seven per cent as provided in a House-passed social security bill.

Kennedy contended an eight per cent increase is necessary to cover higher living costs.

Soviet-Bloc Trade Bans

The United States is reluctantly easing its curbs on trade with the Soviet bloc in Europe.

It is doing so under pressure from allies and American business men in search of new markets.

Tighter Loan Policy

The Federal Reserve Board, showing deepening concern over the threat of inflation, has reversed its recession policy and moved toward tightening the money supply.

More Shelters Urged

Congress and the Eisenhower Administration have been prodded to get going on a multi-billion-dollar program of building shelters to protect Americans against nuclear attack.

Otherwise, a House Government Operations subcommittee said, "our country stands in mortal danger."

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Is it true that people feel better when the wind is out of the northwest?

Yes, as a general rule — which has its exceptions — this weather folklore is correct. Benjamin Franklin even detected the good effects of a northwest wind and wrote that the best time to do business with a man was when the wind was out of the northwest.

This is true because usually our high-pressure clear weather systems come from the northwest. This high pressure gives one a feeling of mild exhilaration and a cheerful mood is more likely to be encountered by a salesman during such weather than when the barometer is low.

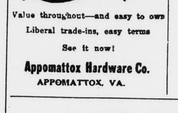
So, in a general sense, a northwest wind is a sign of cheerfulness and "business" weather.

Play safe — drive carefully.

JET NOISE TRIM

New York, (AP) — A jet airliner, added to its first transcontinental Idlewild Airport here.

The plane, the commercial jet to be is equipped with the The tests are aimed whether the plane limitations set for the engine jet planes have been lessen the noise in residential areas near



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APPOMATTOX SCHOOLS START SEPTEMBER 4th.

Every one is getting ready for the first big event of the Fall Season, the opening of the Schools on September 4. It is a great day in every family where children are enrolling for the first time, and it is a big week in the community life of Appomattox, as we join hands in welcoming teachers and pupils back for another session.

Right now we want to impress upon each teacher and pupil that you are welcome in Appomattox. We bespeak for you a happy and profitable year. There is no easy road to knowledge, and we appreciate the hard work that goes into the making of a successful school session.

Appomattox is justly proud of it's school facilities. Rapid progress has been made in recent years in building a modern education plant. The sacrifices of the tax-payers is more than justified as the schools do their work of training our future citizens.

Schools are not something to be taken for granted. Education is a major enterprise. The businessman, the farmer, the worker all have a part in sustaining the educational effort.

When you patronize home businesses, you are supporting your schools and all your local institutions. Community progress is a team effort. Local business and local payroll look to graduates for employees. We know the value of good training, and we know that schools are trying to prepare our young people for a major role in our community. We who serve you today were the students of yesterday.

So, here's a salute to the opening of schools. Call on us to serve you and do come to see us!

In connection with the opening of schools, we remind you that we have no children to spare: won't you drive with extra care, especially when so many precious children are using our highways and streets!

We Welcome Teachers and Students Back for Another Session.

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